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Report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1320 (2000) of 15 September 2000 and provides an update on the peace process since my report dated 6 March 2006 (S/2006/140). The report describes the activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), the current mandate of which expires on 30 September 2006.

II. Status of the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas, and cooperation with the parties

2. The military situation in the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent areas remained generally stable but tense owing to the ongoing serious restrictions that continue to impede the Mission's freedom of movement and negatively impact its monitoring capacity in several areas of the Zone.

3. Since my report of 6 March 2006 (S/2006/140), troops of the Ethiopian Armed Forces (EAF) have continued to engage in training and maintenance of defence facilities in areas adjacent to the Temporary Security Zone, including the relief of troops and readjustment of EAF posture in Sectors West and Centre. Some relocations and readjustments of military hardware also continued. Some of these readjustments followed the reported defection on an EAF Brigadier General who was stationed in the area. However, there has been no significant change in the strength of EAF close to the southern boundary of the Temporary Security Zone.

4. On the Eritrean side, UNMEE reported that Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF) had carried out routine training and maintenance activities outside the Temporary Security Zone and that there was no major increase in the deployment of EDF personnel inside the Zone and adjacent area. However, UNMEE observed that approximately 650 additional militia, most of them armed, had entered the Temporary Security Zone in Sector West, purportedly for farming activities.

Freedom of movement

5. The restrictions imposed by Eritrean authorities on UNMEE, including those restrictions on the freedom of movement in many areas inside the Temporary Security Zone, in Sectors West and Centre, and the ban on helicopter flights, have

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remained in place and are a matter of major concern. As was mentioned above, these restrictions continued to impede the Mission's ability to effectively monitor the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent area on the Eritrean side.

6. In addition, the ban on helicopter flights and the repeated rejection by the Eritrean authorities of UNMEE requests for medical evacuation by helicopter remain a matter of particular concern for the Mission and troop-contributing countries. To address these problems, UNMEE has taken a series of measures, such as upgrading its level-I hospitals to level-I-plus facilities in Barentu and Adigrat, which are now equipped with surgical capabilities. A medical support plan is being revised, including the possibility of creating a level-II facility in Axum. A decision on this important operational issue is expected to be made by the end of September.

Military Coordination Commission

7. The Military Coordination Commission held its 37th meeting in Nairobi on 30 July 2006. The Ethiopian delegation to the meeting expressed concern over the drastic reduction of UNMEE strength which, coupled with the restrictions imposed by Eritrea, further affects the Mission's ability to carry out its mandated tasks. The Eritrean delegation regretted the lack of progress in the demarcation of the border and argued that the downsizing of UNMEE would not resolve the existing stalemate. The two delegations reaffirmed their Governments' commitment to the peace process.

8. Following Eritrea's expression of concern regarding the constraints of holding future meetings of the Military Coordination Commission in Nairobi, the parties did not, however, agree on holding them either on the Mereb Bridge on the border between the two countries (Eritrea's proposal) or in their respective capitals (as proposed by Ethiopia). Instead, they agreed to meet in a third country in the region, yet to be determined, and requested UNMEE to facilitate the meeting.

III. Status of the Mission and related issues

9. Eritrea has maintained the restrictions it imposed in January 2006 on UNMEE personnel entering and leaving the country. Efforts by both UNMEE and the United Nations Secretariat to have the Eritrean authorities rescind the regulations have not been heeded. The expulsion in December 2005 of staff of selected nationalities has continued to have a very negative impact on the overall operations of the Mission. I therefore call upon the Eritrean Government to reverse its decision in this regard.

10. Since early May 2006, Eritrean authorities have detained at one time up to 29 locally recruited UNMEE staff, usually on the grounds that the staff members were required to fulfil "national service" obligations. At the time of the drafting of the present report, four of them still remain in detention despite strong UNMEE protests. These detentions have impacted the operations of UNMEE through periodic reductions in the number of essential local staff and have had a negative impact on staff morale. The Eritrean authorities still insist that the Mission provide personal details on all its local staff and those that it intends to recruit. I remain concerned by these detentions, which contravene provisions of the model status-of-forces agreement and the Charter of the United Nations, and undermine the Mission's operations.

11. On 28 August, Eritrean authorities arrested and detained a United Nations Volunteer on allegations that he was involved in smuggling Eritrean nationals out of the country. The Mission has neither received a proper explanation nor has it been allowed access to the detained staff member despite repeated protests and requests for his immediate release. While UNMEE intends to thoroughly investigate Eritrea's allegations, this is not possible without access to the staff member. Moreover, on 5 September, Eritrean authorities notified the Mission of their decision to declare five United Nations security officers, including four from UNMEE, "persona non grata for performing activities incompatible with their duty". The Mission strongly protested these unsubstantiated allegations and asked the Eritrean Government to rescind its decision, which not only contravenes the Eritrean Government's international obligations but also has a negative impact on the Mission's activities.

12. The Ethiopian Government, for its part, continues to enforce customs regulations on some of the Mission's supplies. These regulations require UNMEE to furnish the Ethiopian authorities with a manifest of items that are to be shipped into the country. Since the Mission transports goods within the Mission area on a "space available" basis, the advance provision of a list has been difficult. I appeal to the Government of Ethiopia to show flexibility on this matter.

13. I also regret to report that no progress has been made on the issue of the direct flight route between Asmara and Addis Ababa. I appeal once again to the Government of Eritrea to address this important issue as a matter of urgency.

IV. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1681 (2006)

14. In compliance with resolution 1681 (2006) of 31 May 2006, the UNMEE military component has been reconfigured in accordance with the new strength of 2,300 troops, including 230 military observers. UNMEE has also carried out adjustments in its deployment in order to ensure that the Mission retains sufficient capability to fulfil its mandate.

15. By the end of August, UNMEE completed its reconfiguration plan, which brought the strength of the Indian battalion from 1,217 to 850, and the Jordanian battalion from 891 to 750. The Kenyan administration and guard company has been reduced from 200 to 74, while the strength of staff officers has been reduced from 85 to 60. The Bangladeshi engineering unit of 168 has been repatriated, while the Kenyan demining unit has been reduced from 115 to 100.

16. As a consequence of the repatriation of the force reserve company, both battalions have created their own reserves. In addition, despite a small reduction, the force has maintained sufficient construction and engineering capabilities. The level-II hospital and the military police component remain with the same staffing. In addition, the rotation of personnel was carried out in a phased manner to avoid any gaps or shortage of troops at any posts and checkpoints within the area of responsibility of the Mission.

17. Regarding the Mission's civilian component, UNMEE is further reviewing the impact of the downsizing of the force on its day to day operations, which have already been seriously affected by the December 2005 Eritrean decision to expel staff of certain nationalities.

18. In order to fulfil its mandate, UNMEE has maintained the same number of posts and military observer team sites and is conducting on average the same number of patrols within existing resources and restrictions. However, this implies that the Mission's operational capacity is overstretched, which adds considerable strain on the military observers as well as on the contingents, since the same tasks are now being performed by fewer troops. In certain areas, tasks hitherto performed by a company now have to be performed by a platoon-size unit.

19. This situation further exacerbates the Mission's limited monitoring capacity and could, if the situation deteriorates seriously, jeopardize the integrity of the Temporary Security Zone. In addition, the provision of support during the possible demarcation of the border will create a further burden on the troops. Military contributions as at 24 August are shown in annex I to the present report.

V. Boundary Commission

20. During the reporting period, the Boundary Commission held two meetings with the parties in London, on 10 March and 17 May. A follow-up meeting that was scheduled to be held in The Hague on 16 June did not take place, following Eritrea's refusal to attend. Instead, the Boundary Commission held consultations with an UNMEE delegation and representatives of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Another meeting that was planned for 24 August did not take place either, as Eritrea responded negatively, while Ethiopia did not respond to the invitation. A report prepared by the President of the Boundary Commission, which provides a detailed account of its activities, is contained in annex II to the present report.

VI. Mine action

21. Landmines and unexploded ordnance continued to pose a threat in the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent areas. Local populations in these areas still face difficulties in carrying out their day to day activities because of the presence of unexploded ordnance. UNMEE received two reports of mine incidents in July 2006, both of which occurred in Sector Centre. In those incidents, one boy was killed and another sustained injuries.

22. Since my last report, the UNMEE demining units, together with a commercial clearance contractor, cleared an area of 593,000 square metres and 540 kilometres of road. In all, an area of 30 square kilometres was surveyed and assessed to be free of mines. This enabled UNMEE to return three tracts of land to civilian use that were previously suspected of having been mined. Furthermore, the Mission destroyed more than 200 unexploded ordnance items and 4 anti-personnel mines. In addition to carrying out humanitarian demining operations in the Mission area, UNMEE stands ready to provide the mandated demining support to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission.

23. During the reporting period, the Mission's demining units conducted mine threat assessment surveys in villages in Sectors West and Centre, with a view to supporting various agencies engaged in the resettlement of internally displaced persons to their homes of origin.

24. UNMEE provided mine risk education to communities affected by mines in Sectors West and Centre, with a focus on communities that had recently been repatriated from camps for internally displaced persons. It provided, in total, mine risk education to 4,104 inhabitants.

VII. Human rights

25. UNMEE continued to monitor cross-border incidents related to the conflict. These included abductions and cases of missing persons from the two countries. The Mission received reports that suggested an increase in such incidents, some of which involved minors. This was attributed, in part, to the conscription campaign carried out by the Eritrean Government.

26. In August, UNMEE visited the Shimelba refugee camp in northern Ethiopia to assess the condition of approximately 11,400 Eritrean refugees. The Mission reports that owing to an increase in the monthly inflow of refugees, the Ethiopian authorities have decided to expand the capacity of the camp to cater to approximately 15,000 persons. Early marriages, domestic violence and a high incidence of HIV/AIDS continue to be the major areas of concern in the camp. Most of the refugees await their resettlement to third countries.

27. The condition of displaced Eritrean persons who have recently been resettled inside the Temporary Security Zone, remains precarious. Since my last report, approximately 9,000 internally displaced persons in Sector Centre and 3,000 in Sector West were resettled to their places of origin. They currently live in difficult conditions owing to the lack of amenities such as clean water, sanitation and schools. In addition, 232 persons of Ethiopian origin and 52 persons of Eritrean origin, including minors, were voluntarily repatriated to their respective countries under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. UNMEE continued to conduct regular interviews with such refugees. I would like to reiterate my earlier appeal to both parties to ensure that the repatriations remain voluntary and that they are carried out in a proper and dignified manner. I also appeal for humanitarian assistance to the displaced persons.

28. As previously reported, UNMEE completed the overall needs assessment for human rights technical cooperation activities in Ethiopia. I am pleased to acknowledge that the Ethiopian authorities have welcomed that report and agreed to define jointly with UNMEE future key priority areas for human rights capacity-building projects that will focus on the harmonization of Ethiopian laws with international human rights instruments; the State reporting obligations; and the promotion of human rights education programmes and human rights training programmes for law enforcement officials, in general. In addition, UNMEE continued to conduct human rights training activities for prison officials, law students and local civil society organizations in the area of operation.

VIII. Public information

29. UNMEE public information activities continued through fortnightly press briefings, weekly radio broadcasts, the monthly news magazine and its three outreach centres located in Addis Ababa, Adigrat and Mekelle, Ethiopia. Broadcasts

on Radio Eritrea also continued during the reporting period. Meanwhile, discussions are under way for similar broadcasts to be introduced on State radio in Ethiopia.

30. Outreach centres have been most instrumental in the dissemination of the Mission's publications and other United Nations material. The centres continue to establish new distribution outlets in various schools, public libraries and community centres. Through their outreach programme, the centres have stepped up cooperation with educational institutions and non-governmental organizations in Ethiopia. The Mobile Video Van, a recent addition to the Mission's diverse information tools, has had considerable positive impact in facilitating the dissemination of information on the Mission's mandate and activities to border populations north of the Temporary Security Zone.

IX. Humanitarian developments

31. Following the visit to Eritrea in April 2006 of Kjell Magne Bondevik, my Special Humanitarian Envoy for the Horn of Africa, and, in response to the drought affecting the region, humanitarian partners in Eritrea appealed for US$ 18 million through the regional appeal for the Horn of Africa. Funds allocated from the Central Emergency Response Fund in the amount of $5.8 million were used to address the most urgent needs of drought-affected people in the areas of health and nutrition, as well as water and sanitation. In line with the self-reliance strategy issued by the Government of Eritrea, no appeal for food was made. Surveys that were undertaken in February 2006 through the national nutrition surveillance system indicate high levels of undernutrition in nearly all of Eritrea's regions.

32. In an effort to resettle approximately 40,000 internally displaced persons who live in camps, the Eritrean Government initiated the return of 9,000 and 11,000 persons in the Debub and the Gash Barka regions, respectively. Those persons, who had lived in camps for eight years, have now been returned, since the end of April 2006, to their respective villages of origin in the Temporary Security Zone. The situation of the people who have been repatriated recently is critical, with basic social services lacking and the infrastructure and other facilities having been destroyed by years of war.

33. In Ethiopia, following the unusually intense and continued rainfall, especially since July 2006, flash-flooding and overflowing of rivers have been reported from all of the country's regions, except for Harari and Beneshangul-Gumuz. Countrywide, over 600 persons have died while over 350,000 others have been affected directly by the floods and more than 136,000 persons have been displaced. The Government, in collaboration with humanitarian partners, issued a flash appeal on 25 August in the amount of $27 million for emergency assistance in the wake of the flood.

34. An outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea has claimed the lives of 123 persons and affected 16,000 others in the country since June 2006. There are currently 44 case treatment centres serving the infected population. Nevertheless, despite collaborative efforts, containment of the disease was not successful, as it continued to spread at an alarming rate. Other cases were also confirmed in the capital, Addis Ababa, and as far south as Guji zone. The Ethiopian Government, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, appealed for $1.5 million for nationwide

preparedness, while the Oromiya regional authorities issued a separate request of $9 million to contain the outbreak and respond to the needs in the region.

X. HIV/AIDS activities

35. The UNMEE HIV/AIDS unit continued to conduct induction training for all incoming military and civilian staff, as well as special awareness sessions for new contingent members to encourage a process of group behavioural change. The unit carries out community outreach programmes in collaboration with the Mission's public information office by utilizing its weekly radio programme and through community training offered by trained contingent members in the field. Voluntary counselling and testing services are also increasingly available at the Mission's level-I clinics and at the unit's office.

XI. Conduct and discipline

36. UNMEE is in the process of appointing a dedicated conduct and discipline officer. Pending completion of this appointment, the activities relating to conduct and discipline in the Mission have been coordinated through the office of my Acting Special Representative. During the period covered by the present report, and following a referral to the Mission by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, an investigation was made into the case of a fraud alleged to have occurred in December 2005. The findings have been sent to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with the recommended course of action. I am pleased to be able to report that no new cases of misconduct have emerged during the reporting period.

XII. Financial aspects

37. By its resolution 1681 (2006), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNMEE until 30 September 2006 and authorized the reconfiguration of its military component.

38. The General Assembly, by its resolution 60/272 of 30 June 2006, appropriated to the Special Account for UNMEE the amount of $182,237,800 (gross) for the financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and apportioned among Member States $45,559,450 for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2006. The Assembly also decided to apportion the amount of $45,559,450 for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2006, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission.

39. In order to reflect the adjustments in the force structure authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1681 (2006), it is my intention to submit a revised budget for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 for consideration and approval of the General Assembly during the main part of its sixty-first session.

40. As at 31 May 2006, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNMEE amounted to $33 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $1.4 billion.

XIII. Observations

41. Four years after the 2002 decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, I remain deeply concerned about the stalemate in the Ethiopia-Eritrea peace process. This is an untenable situation, which, if allowed to fester, could lead intentionally or unintentionally to events with disastrous consequences for the two countries and the whole region. Although both Ethiopia and Eritrea continue to reaffirm their commitment to the ceasefire and the peace process, some of their public rhetoric and political actions contradict the letter and spirit of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities. At a time when the international community is making strenuous efforts to resolve the stalemate and initiate border demarcation, it is imperative for the parties to refrain from provocative actions, including the use of hostile propaganda and mutual public attacks. Regrettably, the parties' political will to finally resolve the issues and implement the Boundary Commission's decision remains elusive.

42. As was indicated on several occasions in the past, I am concerned about Ethiopia's non-compliance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1640 (2005), which, among other things, demands that Ethiopia accept fully and without further delay the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and take immediately concrete steps to enable, without preconditions, the Commission to demarcate the border completely and promptly. Full compliance with the resolution, which is based on the provisions of the Algiers Agreement, is key to resolving the existing stalemate in the peace process and moving the demarcation process forward.

43. At the same time, I am concerned by the refusal of Eritrea to continue its cooperation with the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and to attend the Commission's meetings of June and August 2006. The existing impasse cannot be removed without cooperation with the Commission, contacts, political will and dialogue. Ultimately, it is the parties themselves which have primary responsibility to implement the Algiers Agreement, and they should realize that the status quo is not acceptable or sustainable. I am also concerned by the failure of Eritrea to lift the existing ban on UNMEE helicopter flights in its airspace, as well as by other serious restrictions that it has imposed on the freedom of movement of the Mission's personnel. As was mentioned above, these restrictions seriously compromise the Mission's monitoring capability in the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent areas, and contravene the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities. The failure of Eritrea to rescind the expulsion, in December 2005, of UNMEE personnel of selected nationalities has had an adverse effect on the operations of the Mission and constitutes a blatant and unacceptable violation of one of the most basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping. I call upon the Government of Eritrea to reverse, in compliance with paragraph 1 of resolution 1640 (2005), all restrictions that it has imposed on UNMEE.

44. The arrest and detention of an UNMEE international staff member, the expulsion of five United Nations security officers and the ongoing arrests and detention by the Eritrean security services of the Mission's locally recruited staff are particularly troubling. The Government of Eritrea should release without delay all staff members who are in detention and allow UNMEE to carry out its normal activities.

45. The meetings of the Boundary Commission and the ongoing diplomatic initiative of the United States of America, which has been actively supported by the Security Council, give the parties a unique opportunity to resolve the stalemate and move the peace process forward. In this connection, I call upon both Ethiopia and Eritrea to recommit themselves to the peace process and cooperate with the Boundary Commission in compliance with paragraphs 4 and 5 of resolution 1681 (2006). I also wish to pay tribute to the United States and other Member States that have invested their efforts in search of a solution to the stalemate. There is still much work to be accomplished in order to complete the peace process and create peaceful and cooperative relations between the parties. The situation in the Horn of Africa remains politically tense and fragile. The continuing conflict in Somalia and the unresolved crisis affecting Darfur contribute to the instability affecting the region. Having the foregoing facts in mind, I recommend to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of UNMEE for six months, until 31 March 2007.

46. In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to my Acting Special Representative, Azouz Ennifar, and to the Mission's civilian and military personnel for their continued commitment and perseverance. I would also like to thank all the Mission's partners, including the United Nations country teams in Eritrea and Ethiopia, and other humanitarian agencies, individual Member States, the African Union and other international organizations for the support they continue to lend to the work of UNMEE. I also pay special tribute to the troop-contributing countries for their support to this challenging operation.

Annex I

United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea: military contributions as at 24 August 2006

Country	*Military observers*	*Troops*	*Staff*	*Total*	*National support elements*
Algeria	8			8	
Austria	2		1	3	
Bangladesh	7		7	14	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9			9	
Bulgaria	5			5	
China	6			6	
Croatia	7			7	
Czech Republic	2			2	
Denmark	4			4	
Finland	7			7	
France			1	1	
Gambia					
Germany	2			2	
Ghana	12		3	15	
Greece	3			3	
Guatemala	3			3	
India	8	971	15	994	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3			3	
Jordan	7	829	12	848	
Kenya	9	173	6	188	
Malaysia	7		3	10	
Namibia	3		2	5	
Nepal	5			5	
Nigeria	4		2	6	
Norway	4			4	
Paraguay	4			4	
Peru	3			3	
Poland	6			6	
Romania	8			8	
Russian Federation	4			4	
South Africa	4			4	
Spain	3		1	4	
Sweden	5			5	
Switzerland	4			4	

Country	*Military observers*	*Troops*	*Staff*	*Total*	*National support elements*
Tunisia	4		4	8	
Ukraine	7			7	
United Republic of Tanzania	7		3	10	
United States of America	7			7	
Uruguay	5	33	3	41	
Zambia	10		4	14	
Total	**208**	**2 006**	**67**	**2 281**	

Annex II

Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission: twenty-first report on the work of the Commission

1. The last report submitted by the Commission was the twentieth report, covering the period from 1 December 2005 to 28 February 2006. The next report should have covered the period from 1 March to 30 May 2006. However, on 21 May 2006 the President of the Commission addressed a detailed letter to the Secretary-General setting out the position as it then stood, which obviated a further report covering the period to 30 May 2006. Hence, the present report covers the period from 21 May to 31 August 2006.

2. At its meeting with the parties on 17 May 2006, the Commission invited the parties to a further meeting in The Hague on 15 June 2006. This was with a view to considering the procedural changes that the Commission had proposed in the May 2006 meeting and to check the progress made by the parties in taking the necessary steps to enable the Commission to resume its field activities in accordance with the schedule that the Commission had presented to the parties. By a letter dated 13 June 2006, Eritrea declined to attend that meeting because of its view that Ethiopia still had not accepted the delimitation decision without qualification. The Commission therefore saw no practical alternative but to cancel the June meeting with the parties.

3. Eritrea's position was further expressed in a letter dated 15 June 2006 from President Isaias to the President of the Commission, in which he said:

> "... I wish to inform you that we are not prepared to entertain such futile acts or continue our engagements until the Agreements and the rule of law are respected and implementation of the 'final and binding' award pursued through a transparent process that is devoid of impediments and machinations."

4. The Commission held an internal meeting on 15 June to discuss the next steps and, believing that it might be helpful to reopen the field offices in Asmara and Addis Ababa, decided to do so as soon as possible. It invited the parties to a rescheduled meeting on 24 August 2006, requesting their replies by 10 August 2006.

5. In early August 2006, the Commission sent to Addis Ababa its Deputy Secretary and the field office staff who had been recruited for the purpose of reopening the field offices and requested meetings with officials of the parties in their respective capitals. Despite repeated attempts, the Commission's team was unable to make direct contact with the relevant Ethiopian officials. Eritrea refused entry visas to the team and appeared unwilling to treat as valid the entry visa already issued to the Deputy Secretary by its embassy in Washington, D.C.

6. Notwithstanding this lack of cooperation by the parties, on 7 August 2006, the Commission was able, with the assistance of UNMEE, to reopen its field office in Addis Ababa and has installed its staff there for the time being. The Commission has not been able to make any further progress in reopening its field office in Asmara.

7. On 21 August 2006, President Isaias of Eritrea sent to the President of the Commission a further letter in which he said:

> "The fundamental and primary issues that need to be settled prior to addressing all other aspects of the process are the following:
>
> "1. The Award that is 'final and binding' in accordance with the Algiers Agreement has not been accepted to date by the Ethiopian Government. To discuss other matters when this fundamental issue is not resolved has no legal significance and procedural or practical utility. Ethiopia's acceptance of the decision must therefore be ascertained publicly and unequivocally.
>
> "2. The details and modalities of demarcation and the 'Demarcation Directions' must be worked out in an environment that is (i) free from political interference; (ii) unlawful and compounding mechanisms; and (iii) loopholes susceptible to distortion.
>
> "In the event, I wish to reassure you that unless and until these preliminary ground rules are guaranteed, we have no legal or moral obligation to entertain or accept procedures and arrangements that compromise legality and the 'integrity' of the Agreements, or to engage, through intimidation and pressure, in another round of fruitless meetings."

8. The Commission received no other response from the parties. The attempts of the Registrar to obtain a response on and after 10 August 2006 were unsuccessful.

9. The Commission met from 22 to 24 August 2006 without the participation of the parties to review the situation and consider how best to advance its work. It has scheduled a further internal meeting in November to examine the situation as it then stands and, in particular, how in the circumstances it may best carry forward the demarcation of the boundary.

10. As regards the financing by the parties of the Commission's work, Ethiopia remains in arrears despite an assurance in a letter to the Commission dated 21 May 2006 that it will "soon" receive the requisite funds.

(*Signed*) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission
8 September 2006